Danforth

Danforth

Danforth is a just and rational man. He is willing to hear all of the evidence brought to him by Proctor etc.

it strike hard upon me that she will dare come here with such a tale. (Speaking of Mary Warren. He feels that he must consider the evidence because, surely, Mary would not dare to make this story up, bearing in mind the impact that it will have on the court.)

I judge you not, sir. I am ready to hear your evidence. (To Proctor. Willing to give him a hearing)

He stands to lose a lot in terms of reputation.

Postponement now speaks a floundering on my part; reprieve or pardon must cast doubt upon the guilt of them that died till now. (Act 4)

near to four hundred are in the jails from Marblehead to Lynn, and upon my signature (act three)

The main evidence for Danforth is contained in the opening of Act Three. His character develops further in Act Four. Danforth has a sense of justice and rationality. Unlike Parris he supports the court, not out of self interest but because of his conviction and belief in the system.

His flaw is his belief In the court and the system of theocracy. Arguably this is a stronger motivation than loss of reputation. This is why Danforth supports the girls.

an exact loyalty to his position and his cause (description when he first enters in Act Three)

a person is either with this court or he must be counted against it. (Speaking of those that have signed the deposition arguing the good character of those accused of witchcraft - Rebecca etc)

This is a sharp time, now, a precise time - we live no longer in the dusky afternoon when evil mixed itself with good and befuddled the world.

there is fear in the country because there is a moving plot to topple Christ in the country! Speaking just after Giles refuses to reveal the source of his information about Thomas Putnam

If retaliation is your fear, know this - I should hang ten thousand that dared to rise against the law, and an ocean of salt tears could not melt the resolution of the statutes. (Act 4)

I am not empowered to trade your life for a lie. (To Proctor. Said when Proctor will not testify to seeing Rebecca Nurse with the devil. Act 4)